

Dear Utah Congressional Delegation and President-Elect Obama,

As you no doubt heard directly from voters during the election season, families across Utah are increasingly anxious about health care and are eager to see the new Administration and Congress keep their pledge to enact reforms that will ensure that every American has access affordable and stable health insurance coverage and high-quality health care.

With rising premiums far out-pacing wages, everyone is feeling the effects. Family premiums for health coverage have increased 30 percent since 2001, while income has increased just three percent. Businesses that offer health insurance see it in their bottom lines, and family budgets are being strained by rising out-of-pocket costs. For the small businesses that can't offer coverage and individuals who do not have coverage, the possibilities of obtaining coverage grow ever dimmer.

The recent downturn in the economy has compounded these problems. Chief among people's economic worries are the health and well being of their families. They fear not being able to take their child to the doctor or get the medications they need to stay healthy and take care of their loved ones.

Fixing the economy and reforming our health care system must be inextricably linked. Polling data collected prior to the election asked likely voters to rank policy ideas based on how effective they would be at improving the current economic situation, and the top two answers were reducing health care costs and providing health care to all Americans.

As we move into a new presidential administration and Congress, our leaders must work together to find common-ground policies to provide coverage to all Americans.

We therefore, urge President-elect Obama to make comprehensive health reform one of the top domestic priorities in his administration and one that he tackles first. Utah's children, businesses, seniors, people with disabilities and families are counting on action and his leadership.

Sincerely,

AARP Utah

Advanced Auto

Alliance House, Inc

Asian Association of Utah

Association for Utah Community Health

Aurora Lifetools

Comunidades Unidas
Davis Chamber of Commerce
Disability Law Center
Erin Kimball Memorial Foundation
Hatch Family Chocolates
Intermountain Pediatric Society
League of Women Voters of Utah
Legislative Coalition for People w/Disabilities
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society,
 Desert Mountain States Chapter, Utah Branch
LINCS
Mountainlands Community Health Center
Murray School District
National Tongan American Society
OPTIONS for Independence
Planned Parenthood of Utah
Pragmatix Marketing
Prevent Child Abuse Utah
Rural Health Association of Utah
Salt Lake Community Action Program
Stop the Stigma
Summit Engineering Group Inc.
Utah Academy of Physician Assistants
Utah Community Action Partnership Association

Utah Democratic Healthcare Caucus
Utah Developmental Disabilities Council
Utah Health Policy Project
Utah Navajo Health System, Inc
Utah Nonprofit Housing Corp
Utah Nurse Practitioners
Utah Nurses Association
Utah Partners for Health
Utah Pride Center
Utah Speech Language Hearing Association
Utah Statewide Independent Living Council
Utahs Cruisin for a Cure, Inc
Valley Mental Health
Voices for Utah Children
Wasatch Pediatrics at St. Marks
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Cammie and Kenny Denton
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